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Mysteries Hide Truth About Kennedy Death

"THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT" pretends that its purpose is history—unimpaired historically by the commissioning family's belated deletions. This isn't history. It's a publicity project that backfired. And I, for one, do not propose to keep commenting on the fabrications. There'd be no end to that.

But, as when Manchester falsely pictured Lee Harvey Oswald insane, the documented truth continues to take an outrageous beating in much said (and unsaid) about the Dallas Parkland Hospital events in Look's second excerpt. And Parkland is significant for a reason entirely independent of the book:

I find there a mysterious point-of-departure in the obtainable truth. To indicate this dividing point, meet Dr. W. David Stewart. He was a resident surgeon at Parkland and is now at the Wallace Stevenson Clinic at Gallatin, Tenn.

Dr. Stewart was recently quoted in the Nashville Banner and described to me, as well, his activities during Gov. John B. Connally's emergency operations and what he did when Oswald was brought in.

Here is the death of the President's alleged assassin:

"Oswald was ashen gray and totally unconscious," Dr. Stewart told me. "The bullet penetrated his left lung, spleen and left kidney and he had aorta and vena-caba injuries. I gave him 14 pints of blood. But he died an hour later—without saying a word."

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DR. STEWART'S bullet history for Oswald, all records regarding Governor Connally, and the records of the Oswald autopsy performed at Parkland are complete and indisputable.

But when you move outside the independent authority of Parkland Hospital into what happened at the Federal government's Naval Medical School at Bethesda, Maryland, where President Kennedy's autopsy was performed, everything changes. Preciseness disappears, clarity and completeness vanish, official documents become burned or rewritten.

These mysteries started with an affidavit by the chief autopsy surgeon, a Naval commander, buried in Vol. 17 of the Warren Report: "I, James J. Humes, certify that I have destroyed by burning certain preliminary draft notes relating to Naval Medical School Autopsy A63-272." A Naval officer taking any such action without orders would be court-martialed. Who ordered this, and why?

Then the mysteries reach across the disappearance of 22 color photographs made during the autopsy, 18 black-

and-white prints, 11 body X-rays and a roll of film that disappeared into the hands of the Kennedy family. Incredibly, these were never seen by the Warren Commission. Autopsy photographs are official—not family—property. How did the family ever get a right to possess these exclusively, exclude them from the Warren Commission, and even impound them in the National Archives when the family's possession of them belatedly (Nov. 2, 1966) became known to the public?

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AND ALL WE KNOW about the president's health we know from Parkland. That mystery is revealed only by a casual, one-sentence mention in the Warren Report about administering hydrocortisone at Parkland. Manchester? He's mute.

Well, it was administered by Dr. Charles J. Carrico, and certainly not casually. I talked with Dr. Carrico. The key is the president's personal physician, Adm. George C. Burkley.

"The president's physician handed me the drug," Dr. Carrico told me, "and asked me to inject it in as intravenous solution." Dr. Carrico describes it as Solu-Cortef or its equivalent. There is nothing casual about Solu-Cortef.

It has always been officially (and scathingly) denied that the president had, or ever had, Addison's Disease. Treating an adrenal insufficiency could have been useful in any case. But Solu-Cortef is a drug usually given patients suffering from Addison's Disease.

All autopsies are required to explore the decedent's health, including glandular condition. But now you have still another new and inexcusable mystery. I find that the Bethesda Naval Hospital records on this point are totally missing. Where are they?